

Appl. No. 10/013,980
Amdt.AF dated December 22, 2005
Reply to Final Office Action of October 26, 2005

REMARKS

Applicants have received and carefully reviewed the Final Office Action of the Examiner mailed October 26, 2005. With this Amendment, claims 1, 59-74, and 82 have been canceled, and claims 81 and 83 have been amended. As such, claims 75-81 and 83-93 remain pending.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 75-80 and 84-93 are allowed and claims 60, 64-67, 72-74, 82, and 83 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In that regard, Applicants wish to take allowance of subject matter indicated as allowable by the Examiner, as can be seen by the above amendments and the remarks below.

Claims 1, 59, 61, 62, 68-71, and 81 stand rejected as being anticipated by Loeb (U.S. 6,112,124), and claim 63 stands rejected as being unpatentable over Loeb (U.S. 6,112,124) in view of Kuzma (U.S. 6,038,484). While Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, in the interest of furthering prosecution, claims 1 and 59-74 have been canceled, and claim 81 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 82, which was indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Claim 82 was therefore canceled, and claim 83 was amended to correct dependency. Therefore, the outstanding rejections have become moot, and as such, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.


In light of the above remarks, withdrawal of the rejections, reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

Gust H. Bardy et al.

By their Attorney,

Date: December 22, 2005


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